1st November 1958]

Loss in the sale of Government Publications

* 787 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state whether Rs. 29,616 was written off by Government in November 1957 and February 1958 as a total loss in the sale of certain books published by the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir. The loss in question was sustained in the sale of the Commercial Directory published by the Government in 1952.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is it a fact that the book costing Rs. 15 per copy was sold later on at scrap value?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Yes, Sir, this publication was originally priced at Rs. 15 but the price was gradually reduced in stages to Rs. 5, Rs. 3 and Rs. 2. Still there are copies left unsold and they are treated as waste paper.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIYAR : May I know who is responsible for this loss. Have the Government taken any action against the officer concerned?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If anybody should be held responsible, it is the Government which should be held responsible. But I may tell the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the Government had brought out this publication with the highest of motives as this is really a valuable publication. The idea was that there should be publicity about activities, particularly relating to the industrial development undertaken in this State, not only this country but also in other countries particularly countries which have trade connection with the Madras State. It was with that idea it was published but the value of the publication could not be realized.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : If it is a valuable publication, what is the reason for getting such a low value for it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The obvious reason is that those who could purchase the book did not appreciate the value of it.

SRI M. R. KANDASWAMI MUDALIYAR : அரசாங்கம் பிரசுரித்தவற்றில் சில புத்தகங்கள் வீணாகிவிட்டன என்று சொன்னார்கள். என்ன என்ன புத்தகம் என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இது கமரிஷ்யல் டைரெக்டரி என்ற ஒரே ஒரு புத்தகம் தான்.

Madras Vanaspathi Limited, Villupuram

*788 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) கனம் உள் விவகார அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் தயவுசெய்து பதிலளிப்பாரா—

(அ) கடனாகவோ அல்லது பங்குகளாகவோ அரசாங்கத்தார், தென் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லா, விழுப்புரத்தில் உள்ள சென்னை வனஸ்பதி லிமிடெட்டில் எவ்வளவு தொகையை முதலீடு செய்துள்ளார்கள்?